

# Basildon Council

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Mr G Puxon  
Dale Farm Housing Association  
1 John Harper Street  
Colchester  
Essex CO1 1RP

Date  
Please ask for  
Department  
Tel. No  
e-mail  
Your Ref

15<sup>th</sup> September 2010  
Dawn French  
**Environment & Community Services**  
01268 294858  
[dawn.french@basildon.gov.uk](mailto:dawn.french@basildon.gov.uk)

Dear Mr Puxon

I refer to the various letters sent to me in connection with the above matter. I am now in a position to respond and would ask that you accept my apologies for the delay in doing so. For ease of reference these have been set out in date order as set out below as follows:-

Email & letter to Dawn French 19/7/10

As you know the Council does not intend providing any operational details concerning site clearances and I would refer you to earlier correspondence which sets out the Council's position. I can however, confirm that during the site clearance undertaken early September construction areas were fenced appropriately. I trust that this deals with your concerns.

Letter to Dawn French dated 21 July 2010 – 28 day notices

For clarification I would advise you that it is the Council's intention to serve 28 day notices in relation to any site clearances of occupied land. You will now be aware that the Council did serve 28 day notices on all plots in connection with the site clearances which commenced on 7<sup>th</sup> September.

Letter to Dawn French dated 23 July 2010 – Mrs Coyle

I can confirm that only vacant plots were cleared in June during a 2 day operation. Neither ourselves nor Constant and Co were made aware during the operation of the circumstances which you now allege to have occurred. The Council and its agents will make arrangements for property to be stored where possible. However, when this is not viable property is dismantled and disposed of. The Council does not intend making any payment in respect of this allegation.

The Council is happy to discuss its health and safety arrangements with the Health and Safety Executive with whom you have raised your concerns. Accordingly, I do not intend responding in detail to your observations. As for the 28 day notice, as you know such notices were served prior to the recent site clearances.

Email to Dawn French dated 26 July 2010 from Ann Dean

Most of this letter comments upon legal & policy issues which have been considered in full by the High Court/Court of Appeal and by Members of this Council through its usual decision making processes some time ago. I do not intend corresponding with you in connection with these matters. I can however, advise you that the Council made arrangements via Essex County Council for children to attend school during the recent site clearances and for continuity of education.

Email to Dawn French dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2010

The Council is doing all it can to secure alternative sites. I note that recent correspondence has been received concerning possible applications and the Council will respond to this in the same way as any other planning matter after the appropriate planning considerations have been taken into account. Issues concerning the site clearance in June are dealt with above.

Correspondence with Lorraine Browne concerning possible tree planting which started with your email to her dated 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2010

I can confirm that if the owner of the land wishes for the Council to consider a tree planting scheme they should let us have full details for consideration.

Email to Dawn French dated 6<sup>th</sup> August 2010

The Council's position concerning the proposal for a joint housing application has already been made clear. As for equality impact assessments concerning Dale Farm, the Council wishes to consult with the traveller community concerning this and if you have any views about the most appropriate way for this to be undertaken I would be grateful if you could let me know.

Letter to Chief Executive dated 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010

I have been asked by the Chief Executive to response to this matter on his behalf. It should be noted in relation to the June site clearances that these took place on unoccupied pitches only and your contentions in this regard are plainly erroneous. The Council serves a 28 day notice in relation to site clearances and this provides occupants with a good opportunity to make appropriate arrangements for their property to be removed from the site. Where such arrangements are not made the Council's agents will take action in accordance with arrangements notified to site occupants. The letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> July correctly explains the Council's position.

The Council does not accept your contention that Constant and Co behaved inappropriately during this site clearance but is happy to work with the Health and Safety Executive concerning health and safety issues. The other issues raised in your letter have already been dealt with elsewhere above.

Letter to Chief Executive dated 6 September 2010

I have been asked by the Chief Executive to respond to this matter on his behalf. I can advise you that the Council's agent liaised with the occupants concerning this matter and that storage was declined on the grounds of costs which would be repayable for this facility.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawn French', written over a horizontal line.

Dawn French  
Head of Environment & Community Services